

Attorney Docket No.: **KBI-0015**
Inventors: **Ranganathan, Natarajan**
Serial No.: **10/689,359**
Filing Date: **October 20, 2003**
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This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A nutritional food or nutritional product for maintaining or enhancing gastrointestinal health comprising *Streptococcus thermophilus*, at least one carbohydrate ingredient at about 47% to about 82% by weight of the total weight of the nutritional food or nutritional product, at least one fat ingredient at about 2% to about 12% by weight of the total weight of the nutritional food or nutritional product, and at least one protein ingredient at about 5% to about 80% by weight of the total weight of the nutritional food or nutritional product, wherein the water activity of the nutritional food or nutritional product is less than about 0.47, and wherein said nutritional food or nutritional product provides about 5 billion to 20 billion colony forming units of said *Streptococcus thermophilus* bacteria.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The nutritional food or nutritional product of claim 1 further comprising at least one probiotic bacteria selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacillus acidophilus*, *L. bulgaricus*, *L. casei*, *L. rhamnosus*, *L. fermentum*, *L. salivaroae*, *L. brevis*, *L. plantarum*, *L. ruteri*, *Bacillus sporogenes*, *Bifidobacterium adolescentis*, *B. infantis*, *B. longum*, *B. thermophilum* or *B. bifidum* and wherein said nutritional food or nutritional product provides about 5 billion

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to 20 billion colony forming units of said at least one probiotic bacteria.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The nutritional food or nutritional product of claim 1 wherein said at least one carbohydrate ingredient is dextrose, sucrose, fructose, lactose, maltose, galactose, sugar alcohols, invert sugar syrups, brown sugar, corn syrup, corn syrup solids, honey, molasses, maple syrup, fruit juices, stevia, or an artificial sweetener.

Claim 4 (original): The nutritional food or nutritional product of claim 1 wherein said at least one fat ingredient is olive oil, canola oil, palm oil, coconut oil, sunflower oil, peanut oil, vegetable oil, lecithin, fish oil, cotton seed oil, soybean oil, lard, monoglycerides, diglycerides, butter, margarine, and other animal, vegetable, and marine fats, or milk fats.

Claim 5 (original): The nutritional food or nutritional product of claim 1 wherein at least one protein ingredient is cereal proteins, milk proteins, egg proteins, animal proteins, vegetable proteins, whey protein, bean proteins, lactalbumin-casein co-precipitate, calcium caseinate, sodium caseinate, purified or refined grades of casein and soy proteins, or peanuts.

Claim 6 (original): The nutritional food or nutritional product of claim 1 further comprising at least one vitamin component and at least one mineral component.

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Claim 7 (previously presented): The nutritional food or nutritional product of claim 1 further comprising at least one prebiotic ingredient, wherein the at least one prebiotic ingredient is a fructo-oligosaccharide, a galacto-oligosaccharide, a soy-oligosaccharide, a xylo-oligosaccharide, a isomalto-oligosaccharides, Jerusalem artichoke flour, rolled oats, banana fiber, a pectin and pectic polysaccharide, a mannan, a pentosan, a beta-glucan, a rabinan or a galactan.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A nutritional food or nutritional product for maintaining or enhancing gastrointestinal health, comprising at least one carbohydrate ingredient, at least one fat ingredient, at least one protein ingredient, at least one vitamin component, at least one mineral component, at least one prebiotic ingredient, and *Streptococcus thermophilus*, wherein said *S. thermophilus* has a propensity to hydrolyze nitrogenous waste products and the at least one fat ingredient is about 2% to about 12% by weight of the total weight of the nutritional food or nutritional product, wherein the water activity of the nutritional food or nutritional product is less than about 0.47, and further wherein said nutritional food or nutritional product provides about 5 billion to 20 billion colony forming units of said *Streptococcus thermophilus* bacteria.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A method of restoring and maintaining gastrointestinal health comprising administering to a subject at least one food or nutritional product comprising an effective amount of *Streptococcus thermophilus* and about 2% to about 6% by weight of a prebiotic, wherein the water activity of

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the nutritional food or nutritional product is less than about 0.47, and wherein said *Streptococcus thermophilus* bacteria is present at a level of about 5 billion to 20 billion colony forming units.

Claim 10 (previously presented): A nutriceutical composition to alleviate the symptoms of uremia comprising a composition of a probiotic, a prebiotic, and *Streptococcus thermophilus* with pH stability and urea degrading activity, wherein said probiotic provides about 5 billion to 20 billion colony forming units of bacteria.